

RESOLUTION

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Pupil Absence From School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14-16 and N.J.A.C. 6:3-9.3(a), regarding pupil absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any pupil absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Pupils who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the pupil must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must NOT be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:

- (a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and
- (b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a pupil. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2003-2004 school year:

September 23	Day of Ascension (Isra and Miraj) (Islamic) [Date is approximate with sighting of the moon]
September 27	Feast of Trumpets (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
September 27, 28	Rosh Hashanah (2 days) (Jewish)
October 3 – 5	Dussera (Hindu)
October 6	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
October 6	Day of Atonement (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
October 11,12	Sukkot (First & Second Days) (Jewish)
October 11 - 17	First Day through Seventh Day of Feast of Tabernacles (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
October 18	Eighth Day of Tabernacles (Jewish)
October 18	Last Great Day (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God))
October 19	Rejoicing of the Law (Simchat Torah) (Jewish)
October 20	Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
October 24 - 26	Deepavali (Hindu)
October 27	First of Ramadan (Islamic)
October 31	Reformation Day (Protestant, Lutheran)
November 1	All Saints Day (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Lutheran)
November 12	Birth of the Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 25	Eid El Fitr (End of Fasting) (Islamic) [Date is approximate with sighting of the moon]

December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Roman Catholic)
December 20	First Day of Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 25	Christmas (Christian—general)
December 26	Kwanzaa Begins
December 27	Eighth Day of Hanukkah (Jewish)
January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Christmas (Armenian)
January 6	Feast of the Epiphany (Roman Catholic, Christian)
January 7	Christmas (Eastern Orthodox)
January 14	New Year's Day (Eastern Orthodox)
January 15	Makara Sankranti (Hindu)
January 19	Feast of Epiphany (Eastern Orthodox)
January 22	New Year (Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese)
February 1	Feast of Sacrifice (Eid of Adha) (Islamic) [Date is approximate with sighting of the moon]
February 18	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
February 19	Sts' Vartanantz Day (Armenian)
February 22	New Year (Islamic) [Date is approximate with sighting of the moon]
February 24	Shrove Tuesday
February 25	Ash Wednesday (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox)
March 6	Holi (Hindu)
March 7	Purim (Jewish)
March 21	Feast of Naw-Ruz (Baha'i and Iranian New Year, also Persian New Year and Heritage Day)
March 21	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)
March 29	Rama Navami (Hindu)
April 6	First Day of Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
April 6,7	First Two Days of Passover (Jewish)
April 8	Holy Thursday (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox)
April 9	Good Friday (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox)
April 12	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox)
April 12	Seventh Day of Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
April 12,13	Seventh & Eighth Days of Passover (Jewish)
April 14	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 24	Memorial Day (Armenian)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 20	Ascension Day (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 23	Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (Islamic)
May 26,27	Shavuot (2 days) (Jewish)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
May 30	Day of Pentecost (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)

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